

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-22, and 47-49 are pending in the present application. Claims 14 and 23-46 are canceled. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 13, 15-17, 20, 21, 47, and 48 are amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Telephonic Interview with Examiner Blount on November 22, 2005

Applicant thanks Examiner Steven Blount for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative during the November 22, 2005 telephonic interview. During the teleconference, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed amending the independent claims by Examiner Amendment to place the application in condition for allowance. Examiner Blount indicated that a Primary Examiner approved the amended independent claim language contained in this Amendment After Final. Therefore, it is applicant's representative's understanding that the present claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 13, 15-17, 20, 21, 47, and 48 to place the application in condition for allowance according to the Examiner's recommendation and Primary Examiner's approval. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, and 47-49 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-8, 10-12, and 16-22 are dependent claims depending on independent claims 1 and 15, respectively. As a result, claims 2-8, 10-12, and 16-22 also are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence on allowable claims.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited prior art references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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